



Serving the Hispanic Community of the Central Valley for 20 years

*SBA Community Partner of the Year*

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

January 4, 2010

Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

We understand that the FCC continues to consider net neutrality regulations that were proposed in October. The Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce filed our concerns shortly after that initial proposal was made, noting that it could worsen internet access problems that are too common in our region and other rural communities. I write to inform you that our concerns have not been alleviated.

We know that the FCC recognizes that access to broadband internet technology is an economic growth catalyst. In particular, wireless devices with broadband capability allow our members to make their businesses more efficient and to multi-task like never before. Small businesses have to run lean in order to keep costs down and stay afloat, particularly in a down economy, and businesses that are not able to utilize this technology are at a competitive disadvantage.

Our region is undergoing tremendous population growth, particularly in Latino communities, so educational and economic opportunities must keep pace. Extending broadband internet technology is essential for this to happen. The rural nature of our region makes it all the more challenging to deliver broadband to all, but that should be the FCC's goal; not focusing on network neutrality which threatens to stifle much-needed investment and increased deployment.

Given our interest in fostering a healthy economic climate for Hispanic-owned businesses in our region, we cannot stand by as regulations that threaten increased broadband coverage are pending. We don't see that the merits of the FCC's net neutrality proposal have been demonstrated - although the negative impact on our largely Latino, and rural population has been. Thank you for your attention and we look forward to working with the FCC in the future.

Sincerely,

John Hernandez  
Executive Director,  
Central California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce